

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Background section on page 1, line 12, of the Specification as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

Replace "~~Synchronous Data Handling~~" with "Synchronous Digital Hierarchy".

Networks, both computer and telephone, support public and private users in personal and business enterprises. As the use of networks has increased over time, so has the need for more bandwidth. Fiber optic networks were developed to meet this need and transmit data (e.g., voice and data signals) at high data rates. SONET ("Synchronous Optical Network") and SDH ("~~Synchronous Data Handling~~" "Synchronous Digital Hierarchy") were developed to be standards for fiber optic transmission.